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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

26 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: General J. Lawton Collins

SUBJECT : Pressure on Bao Dai to Return to Viet Nam

1. [] has requested that the following report which he regards as very disturbing be brought to your personal attention. Information was received through [] on 24 January 1955 that Premier Mendes France had sent Guy La Chambre to see Bao Dai and urge him to return to Viet Nam soon. Premier Ngo Dinh Diem is attempting to prevent Bao Dai from making such a decision as Bao Dai's return at this time would seriously weaken his position.

2. In connection with this report additional information has been received from Paris through Vo Lang, a pro-Diem member of Bao Dai's entourage. Vo Lang maintains that on 13 January he learned that Guy La Chambre was in Cannes attempting to persuade Bao Dai to return to Viet Nam. Vo Lang went to Cannes from Paris but arrived the day after La Chambre had left. He maintains that he confirmed that La Chambre did attempt to persuade Bao Dai to return to Viet Nam. Bao Dai held up making any decision but agreed to inform La Chambre of his decision as soon as possible. Vo Lang maintains he spent four days with Bao Dai arguing against the ex-Emperor's return to Viet Nam. He feels he was successful in convincing Bao Dai not to return for the time being but stated Bao Dai was under heavy French pressure through Nguyen De and Buu Loc, both of whom are now in Cannes making personal pleas. General Hinh is also in Cannes adding his persuasion on Bao Dai backed up with the promise of his won return and full support of Bao Dai in subsequent developments.

3. Vo Lang claims Bao Dai is being inflamed against the United States by the French through Nguyen De, Buu Loc and General Hinh. Vo Lang fears that Bao Dai may succumb to pressure and make moves harmful or even disastrous to Premier Ngo Dinh Diem's Government.

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Box 8

Tab 2

Army	FEMA	NSA	FCC
CIA	FBI	OSD	
DEA	HOUSE	STATE	
DIA	NASA	SENATE	
DOE	NAVY	TREAS	
DOJ	NSC	USAF	
DSWA	NRC	USMC	

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